NUMB. XCV.

The SPECTATOR.

Curæ Leves loquuntur Ingentes Stupent.

Tuesday, June 19. 1711.

HAVING read the two following Letters with much Pleaſure, I cannot but think the good Senſe of them will be as agreeable to the Town as any thing I could ſay either on the Topicks they treat of, or any other. They both allude to former Papers of mine, and I do not queſtion but the firſt, which is upon inward Mourning, will be thought the Production of a Man, who is well acquainted with the generous Earnings of Diſtreſs in a Manly Temper, which is above the Relief of Tears. A Speculation of my own on that Subject I ſhall defer 'till another Occaſion.

The ſecond Letter is from a Lady of a Mind as great as her Underſtanding. There is, perhaps, ſomething in the beginning of it, which I ought in Modeſty to conceal; but I have ſo much Eſteem for this Correſpondent, that I will not alter a Tittle of what ſhe writes, tho' I am thus Scrupulous at the Price of being Ridiculous.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Was very well pleaſed with your Diſcourſe upon General Mourning, and ſhould be obliged to you, if you would enter into the Matter more deeply, and give us your Thoughts upon the common Senſe the ordinary People have of the Demonſtrations of Grief, who preſcribe Rules and Faſhions to the moſt ſolemn Affliction; ſuch as the Loſs of the neareſt Relations and deareſt Friends. You cannot go to viſit a ſick Friend, but ſome impertinent Waiter about him obſerves the Muſcles of your Face, as ſtrictly as if they were Prognoſticks of his Death or Recovery. If he happens to be taken from you, you are immediately ſurrounded with Numbers of theſe Spectators, who expect a melancholy Shrug of your Shoulders, a Pathetical Shake of your Head, and an Expreſſive Diſtortion of your Face, to meaſure your Affection and Value for the Deceaſed: But there is nothing, on theſe Occaſions, ſo much in their Favour as immoderate Weeping. As all their Paſſions are ſuperficial, they imagine the Seat of Love and Friendſhip to be placed viſibly in the Eyes: They judge what Stock of Kindneſs you had for the Living, 'by the quantity of Tears you pour out for the 'Dead; ſo that if one Body wants that Quantity 'of Salt-water another abounds with, he is in great 'Danger of being thought inſenſible or ill-natured. 'They are Strangers to Friendſhip, whoſe Grief 'happens not to be moiſt enough to wet ſuch a 'Parcel of Handkerchiefs. But Experience has 'told us nothing is ſo fallacious as this outward Sign of Sorrow; and the natural Hiſtory of our Bodies will teach us, that this 'Flux of the Eyes, this Faculty of weeping is peculiar only to ſome Conſtitutions. We obſerve in 'the tender Bodies of Children, when croſſed in 'their little Wills and Expectations, how diſſolvable they are into Tears. If this were what 'Grief is in Men, Nature would not be able to 'ſupport them in the Exceſs of it for one Moment. 'Add to this Obſervation, how quick is their 'Tranſition from this Paſſion to that of their 'Joy. I won't ſay we ſee often, in the next tender things to Children, Tears ſhed without much 'grieving. Thus it is common to ſhed Tears 'without much Sorrow, and as common to ſuffer 'much Sorrow without ſhedding Tears. Grief 'and Weeping are indeed frequent Companions, but, I believe, never in their higheſt Exceſſes. 'As Laughter does not proceed from profound 'Joy, ſo neither does Weeping from profound Sorrow. The Sorrow which appears ſo eaſily at the 'Eyes, cannot have pierced deeply into the Heart. 'The Heart, diſtended with Grief, ſtops all the 'Paſſages for Tears or Lamentations.

'Now, Sir, what I would incline you to in all 'this is, that you would inform the ſhallow Criticks and Obſervers upon Sorrow, that true Affliction labours to be inviſible, that it is a Stranger 'to Ceremony, and that it bears in its own Nature 'a Dignity much above the little Circumſtances, 'which are affected under the Notion of Decency. 'You muſt know, Sir, I have lately loſt a dear 'Friend, for whom I have not yet ſhed a Tear, 'and for that Reaſon your Animadverſions on that 'Subject would be the more acceptable to,

S I R,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

B. D.

Mr.

'AS I hope there are but few that have ſo little Gratitude as not to acknowledge the Uſefulneſs of your Pen, and to eſteem it a Publick Benefit, ſo I am ſenſible, be that as it will, you muſt nevertheleſs find the Secret and Incomparable Pleaſure of doing Good, and be a great Sharer in the Entertainment you give. I acknowledge our Sex to be much obliged, and I hope improved, by your Labours, and even your Intentions more particularly for our Service. If it be true, as 'tis ſometimes ſaid, that our Sex have an Influence on the other, your Paper may be a yet more general Good. Your directing us to Reading is certainly the beſt Means to our Inſtruction; but I think, with you, Caution in that Particular very uſeful, ſince the Improvement of our Underſtandings may, or may not, be of Service to us, according as it is managed. It has been thought we are not generally ſo Ignorant as Ill-taught, or that our Sex does ſo often want Wit, Judgment, or Knowledge, as the right Application of them: You are ſo well-bred, as to ſay your fair Readers are already deeper Scholars than the Beaus, and that you could name ſome of them that talk much better than ſeveral Gentlemen that make a Figure at *Will's*: This may poſſibly be, and no great Compliment, in my Opinion, even ſuppoſing your Compariſon to reach *Tom's*, and the *Grecian*: Sure you are too wiſe to think That a Real Commendation of a Woman. Were it not rather to be wiſhed we improved in our own Sphere, and approved our ſelves better Daughters, Wives, Mothers and Friends?

'I can't but agree with the Judicious Trader in *Cheapſide* (though I am not at all prejudiced in his Favour) in recommending the Study of Arithmetick; and muſt diſſent even from the Authority which you mention, when it adviſes the making our Sex Scholars. Indeed a little more Philoſophy, in order to the Subduing our Paſſions to our Reaſon, might be ſometimes ſerviceable, and a Treatiſe of that Nature I ſhould approve of, even in Exchange for *Theodoſius, or the Force of Love*; but as I well know you want not Hints, I will proceed no further than to recommend the Biſhop of *Cambray's* Education of a Daughter, as 'tis Tranſlated into the only Language I have any Knowledge of, tho' perhaps very much to its Diſadvantage. I have heard it objected againſt that Piece, that its Inſtructions are not of General Uſe, but only fitted for a great Lady; but I confeſs I am not of that Opinion; for I don't remember that there are any Rules laid down for the Expences of a Woman, in which Particular only I think a Gentlewoman ought to differ from a Lady of the beſt Fortune, or Higheſt Quality, and not in their Principles of Juſtice, Gratitude, Sincerity, Prudence or Modeſty. I ought perhaps to make an Apology for this long Epiſtle, but as I rather believe you a Friend to Sincerity, than Ceremony, ſhall only Aſſure you I am,

SIR,

Your Moſt Humble Servant,

Annabella.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of May, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane, where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of March and April.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By her Majeſties Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, this preſent Tueſday being the 19th Day of June, will be preſented A Play, call'd, The Libertine Deſtroy'd. The Part of Don John by Mr. Mills, Don Antonio Mr. Thurmond, Don Lopez Mr. Dick Graff, Jacomo Mr. Johnſon, Leonora Mrs Knight, Maria Mrs. Porter, Clara Miſs Willis, Flavia Miſs Sherborn, and all the other Parts to the beſt Advantage.

This Play is ſold by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

This Day is publiſh'd,

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